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*Annals
Reformed Churches*



ROBERT BALMANNO, F. S. A.

LONDON, 1888.

MAY 1 1914



A N N A L S
OF THE
Rise, Progress, and Persecutions;
Of the FAMOUS
REFORMED CHURCHES
IN
F R A N C E.

WHICH ARE

At this Day groaning under the cruel Bondage of
POPISH TYRANNY;

WITH AN

A D D R E S S.

Calculated to excite Christian Sympathy, and Charity to-
wards the Persecuted, and a religious Concern in
BRITISH PROTESTANTS to improve the unspeakable
Privileges they enjoy.

*Your Faith, and Patience, in all your Persecutions, and Tri-
bulations that ye endure. Which is a manifest Token of the Ju-
sticious Judgment of GOD (that there is a Day when he will judge
the World in Righteousness) that ye may be counted worthy
of the Kingdom of GOD, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it
is a righteous Thing with GOD to recompense Tribulation to
them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled, rest, &c.*

2 Thell. 1. 4. ad fin.

The venerable Councils of the Reformed Churches in France,
used a Seal with this Device, *A Bramble-bush in a flaming Fire,
the sacred Name JEHOVAH engraven in it's Center, and
this Motto, Comburo non consumor, in it's Circumference.*
I burn but am not consumed.

Coelum non Animum mutant, qui Papæ serviunt.

Recommended to the Consideration of YOUNG PERSONS.

The SECOND EDITION, greatly enlarged, and the History
continued to this Time,

L O N D O N :

Printed and Sold by J. WAUGH, at the Turk's-Head in I-
bard-Street. MDCCLIII.

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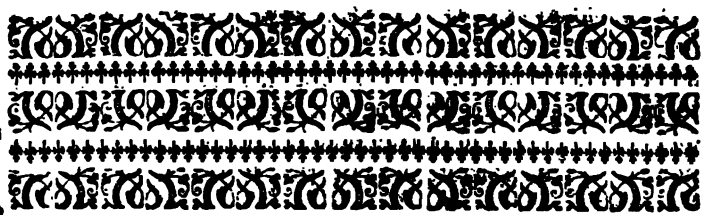
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 of any Religion by English Parliament for bidale on 23 April 1641



THE P R E F A C E.



THE glorious Gospel of the blessed Redeemer inspires such a Spirit of Good-will towards all Men, and Bowels of Mercy towards Brethren in Christ, suffering for his Sake; that it may well fill with Wonder to consider, how insensible we have been of the unspeakable Tribulations of the Gallican Reformed Churches, though they have lasted so many years. An eminent divine, not long since removed from our World, says in a Letter relating to this Subject, " I remember my Faults this Day. I have read and heard a great Deal of the Sufferings of our Protestant Brethren in France. I have conversed with those who saw their Assemblies dissolved, and their Temples ruined, their dead Bodies torn out of the Graves, and given to the Fowls of the Air; I have read the Letters of their Pastors, and those of their Martyrs, and the incomparable Discourses of Superville and Saurin, which so pathetically represent their Sufferings.— And yet, alas! I have in a great Measure forgotten the Afflictions of these Brethren. Now and then I put up a transient Pro-

Shall not we call our Faults to Remembrance this Day, who have never shed a Tear? Perhaps never concerned ourselves at all for them, that they might obtain Mercy of the Lord, to be faithful unto Death, that those (O how many!) who have fallen might rise again, that the Needy may not always be forgotten, nor the Expectation of the Poor perish for ever. Our Insensibility of their Miseries must have been provoking to the compassionate Head of the Church, at the same Time that it has prevented our taking Warning to turn from our Worldliness, our Indevotion and Sensuality. Nay are we not, not only hardened against our Brethren's Sorrows, but even the Fear of the Lord, and his righteous Displeasure? It is but reviewing the pastoral Letters of the Bishops of London in 1745, and 1749-50. and as we shall be reminded of the awful Judgements with which we were threatened (are they not almost forgotten?) so shall we see the meritorious Causes of them, our spreading monstrous Crimes; are these yet forsaken?—Amidst all the sad Presages of approaching Misery to our beloved native Land, there are some brightning Beams which such as are not swallowed up with Fears, must thankfully own as the Gift of Heaven; That the Legislature has exerted itself against Perjury, making it Death (O when shall all impracticable and unnecessary Oaths cease to be required! till then a heavy Load of Guilt must lie upon the Nation) against Prophaneness also, and boundless Diversions, &c. Many Magistrates, and others, exert themselves vigorously to restrain lewdness, sabbath-breaking, and profaneness, and now appears, blessed be God! a Sympathy in many Breasts for bleeding Zion: French Protestants are come into Remembrance, who suffer for the Name of the LORD JESUS, insomuch that there is a Dawn of Hope to which we may apply the Words, Psal. cii. 13, 14. Thou shalt arise and have Mercy upon Zion: For the Time to favour her, yea the set Time is come: For thy Servants take Pleasure in her Stones, and favour the Dust thereof. The pious and learned Divine, whose Compassion is shewn in the above Quotation, was desirous to engage many Thousands of our British Israel, to keep a solemn Day of Humiliation before the Lord for our Brethren in Bonds, and as a suitable preparatory Work, encouraged

1689 Jan 2 2445 Protestant Nobility &c attend of

Treason London derry besieged by 9000 Irish

Treason London derry besieged by 9000 Prussians

* *Quick's Icones Sacrae Gallicanae*, MSS. Life of Mr. Claude, Vol. 1.

be seen in Synodicon in Gall. Reform. Vol. II. p. 579; 80, 83, 84, 85.) shew the Corruption of the Times, and the pious Care, and holy Fear of the Pastors; yet the learned and well-informed Mr. John Quick observes, that about the year 1685, "The many and crying Sins of the Protestants in France, provoked the pure Eyes of God's Holiness to so great Jealousy against them, that he let in upon them a Deluge of Wrath, and Vengeance, which in one Day did utterly sweep away all their religious Assemblies, banished their Pastors out of the Kingdom, demolished their Temples, and bath exposed them to infinite, and unparalleled Sufferings, Massacres, and Desolations. Now the Ways of Zion do mourn, &c." * O Britain consider these Things, in this thy Day, before the Things of thy Peace are for-ever hid from thine Eyes!

Haft Thou no Heart? or is it turn'd to Steel?
 Shall neither Love nor Terror make Thee feel,
 Till Annals of thy Doom, Thy Guilt reveal? }

* Icones Sacrae Gallicanae, MSS. Vol. II. Life of Mr. Brousson, Minister and Martyr, broken on the Wheel in Nov. 1698. (A Life and Death that deserves to be written in Letters of Gold.) As several References are made to this MSS. it may be proper to observe, that it is a Work that the Reverend Mr. Quick had prepared for the Press, but had not a competent Subscription for encouraging the Design. It is in three Volumes Folio, and contains the Lives of fifty of the most eminent Pastors and Professors of the Reformed Churches in France since the Reformation. The third Volume, intitled Icones Sacrae Anglicanae, contains the Lives of twenty eminent English Divines. —A larger Account of this Work may be read in Dr. Calamy's Abridgement, &c. Vol. III. p. 334, 335. who there says, the old Duke of Bedford was so well pleased with it, that he had resolved to see it published, though at his own Charge: But he was prevented by Death. —If this Work should be buried in Oblivion, it would be a Loss, not only to French Protestants, but Protestants in general, and deprive the Learned World of a great Treasure. Such as desire to see the History to which the Annals relate, at large in the French Language, may consult M. De Thou, De Beze, D'Avila, De Castelnau, D'Aubignè, Montuc, Mercier, Benoit, &c. The added History of Facts from June 1752, to 1753. is from the best Information that could be procured.

February 4,
 1752.

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OF THE
 Life, Progress, and Persecutions,

Of the FAMOUS
REFORMED CHURCHES

I N
F R A N C E.

F R A N C E.

Dear SIR,

Dear S I R,

THE Annals which were put into your Hands in Manuscript, many Months ago, for your Perusal and Judgment, are now presented you in Print: The Delay has served this good End, that exacter Information has been gained of the State of Things with our dear persecuted Brethren, the Protestants of *France*, from the Year 1746, to this Time. I shall not detain you by a long Introduction, but wish, and pray, that what raised in your Breast the tenderest Concern for the afflicted Servants of Christ, may do the like in the Breasts of all that read it; and that God would pour out his Spirit upon all Flesh; and that we, in these Isles in particular, may render unto the Lord according to the Mercies we have, and do yet daily receive.

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I remain affectionately Yours, &c.

Oct. 21, 1752.

Oct. 21. 1752.

A. D. 1100.

ALL Europe was over-run with Idolatry, excepting the Inhabitants of *Piedmont*, who enjoyed the Purity of the Gospel in the darkeſt Times, and from the Days of the Apoſtles (a). In the twelfth Century the Whole of Religion was placed in Penances, Maſſes, Legacies to redeem Souls from Purgatory, and Pilgrimages, (eſpecially to the holy Sepulchre at *Jeruſalem*) in Cruſado's againſt the *Turks*, and thoſe who lived according to the Purity of the Goſpel (b).

1124.

"The Light of Reformation was brought from the Vallies of *Piedmont* into *France*, by the zealous Preaching of *Bruids*, *Henry* and *Arnold*, who each of them ſuffered Martyrdom for the Truth "of the Doctrines advanced by them." (*Hiſtorical Register*.) *Peter Bruys* preached for many Years at *Thoulouſe* againſt the *Popiſh* Maſs, Prayers for the Dead, and other Doctrines of *Rome*, contrary to the holy Scriptures; for which he was perſecuted, and burnt to Death (in *S. Egidii urbe*) at *St. Gille's*. His Diſciple *Henricus Monachus* promoted the Reformation with yet greater Zeal, and ſpread the Truths of the Goſpel far and wide in *France*, about the Year 1147. Vid. *Hofmanni Lexic*.

1160.

Yet the firſt moſt remarkable Spread of Reformation in *France* was by *Peter Waldus*, or *Waldo*, a rich Merchant of *Lions* (a City of the greateſt Traffick in *France*, extremely populous, and not far diſtant from the Vallies) who, leaving off all other Buſineſs, conſecrated himſelf, and his great Poſſeſſions, to ſpread by Inſtruction the Knowledge of the Goſpel; and, having procured a Tranſlation thereof into the vulgar Tongue, he became a Preacher of it, with great Succeſs. A bitter Perſecution was raiſed againſt him and his Followers, and hereupon they diſperſed themſelves into the neighbouring Countries of *Languedoc* and *Provence*, and likeways into *Picardy* (c).

1198.

The reformed in *France* became numerous (thro' *Languedoc*, *Provence*, *Dauphiny* and *Aragon* eſpecially) and were protected by *Raymond* Count of *Thoulouſe*, the Counts of *Beziers* and *Carcannon*, &c. whereupon Pope *Innocent III.* excited Princes and People to exterminate them, publiſhed a Cruſado with plenary Remiſſion of Sins to all who would go to this holy War. Five hundred thouſand (ſays *Mezeray*, Vol. II. p. 219.) combined hereupon,

(a) Vid. *Morland's Hiſt.* of the Evangelical Churches, Book I. c. 3. (b) Vid.

upon, and took *Beziers*, put above 60,000 to the Sword, and during the War (according to *Historical Register*) destroyed 500,000. They proceeded with great Cruelty, till they had ruined Count *Thoulouse*, and given his Dominions, as a Reward, to *Monfort*, General of the Crusade (*d*).

1210.

Twenty-four Persons suffered for the Reformation at *Paris*; and in that Year 400 were martyred under the Name of *Heretics*. Prince *Armericus* was hanged, and the Lady of *Castile* stoned to Death (*e*).

1374.

[*John Wickliff* about this Time publickly maintained several material Propositions in the University of *Oxford*, (where he was Divinity Professor) against the Church of *Rome*, having received Light from the *French Reformers*. He had many Followers; but a furious Persecution was raised by the Clergy, under the Reigns of *Henry IV.* and *V.*—From *Wickliff*, *John Hus*, and *Jerom of Prague* scattered the good Seed of Reformation in *Bohemia*, for which they suffered Martyrdom, where it spread gloriously, and is not yet extirpated] (*f*).

1390.

“In the Province of *Narbone* 140 chose rather to suffer whatsoever grievous Punishment by Fire, than to receive the Decretals of the *Romish Church*, contrary to the Truth of the Gospel.” (*g*).

1523.

Notwithstanding the many Cruelties exercised against the reformed in *France*, the Truth of the Gospel so spread, that about this Time the City of *Meaux*, but 30 Miles distant from *Paris*, was brought off from the Worship of Saints and Images; and here was the first *Gallican* reformed Church. The Bishop of *Meaux* employed the learned *James Faber* in this Work; and *Margaret Queen of Navarr*, Sister to *Francis I.* then King of *France*, had embraced the Reformation, and was a great Friend to *James Faber*, and an Asylum and Sanctuary to all the persecuted (*b*).

[About this Time *Luther* (anno 1517) began the Reformation in *Germany*, (for Martyrs in *Germany*, Vid. *Fox's Table in Acts and Monuments*, Vol. II. p. 94—104.) *Zinglius* did the same in *Switzerland*, and the reformed Religion was received at *Zurich*, (a chief Canton;) and in the *Low-Countries* it spread greatly, particularly after Printing came in; and the Arch-Duke *Charles*,

B

Heir

(*d*) Vid. *Quick's Syn.* Vol. I. p. 4. *Lozman* on the Revelation, p. 124, 125.
 (*e*) Vid. *Acts and Monuments* abridged, p. 269. (*f*) *Acts and Monuments* abridged, p. 269, & seq. *Echard's Hist. of England*, Vol. I. p. 380. (*g*) *Acts and Monuments*, ut sup. (*b*) *Quick's Icones Sacre Gallicane.* Vol. I. *James Faber's Life*.—MSS.

Heir of those Provinces, had a Bible presented to him at his Baptism, with this Inscription, *Search the Scriptures (i)*.

1535.

The Reformation was so far established in *England*, that the Pope's Supremacy was rejected, Monasteries were suppressed, and in 1536, Orders were given by *Henry VIII.* that the Bible should be translated into *English*, which was speedily done, and printed at *Paris* three Years after. *Burnet's Hist. Reform. Vol. I. B. III. p. 195, 196, 249.*

1548.

The whole Kingdom of *France* was by this Time greatly enlightened; many of the most eminent Counsellors, and illustrious Senators of the Parliament of *Paris* openly professed the Reformation in the Presence of King *Henry II.* tho' at the Loss of Honour, Estate and Life. Some Persons dared espouse the Cause who were of royal Blood, and it spread gloriously, tho' with great Slaughter of the Saints. *Clement Marot* a Courtier, and great Wit, was advised by *Vatablus*, regius Professor of the Hebrew Tongue in the University of *Paris*, to consecrate his Muse unto GOD; whereupon he translated fifty Psalms of *David* into French Meter, and the learned *Beza* the other hundred with the Scripture Sonnets. *Lewis Gaudimel*, a most skilful Master of Musick (another *Asaph*) set those sweet and melodious Tunes to which those Psalms are sung to this Day. They met with great Acceptance, were sung in the *Louvre* (a royal Palace in *Paris* where the Court was kept) as well as the *Pres des Clerks*, by Ladies, Princes, and even by King *Henry II.* himself. This sacred Practice contributed greatly to the Downfal of Popery, and Propagation of the Gospel. The popish Clergy raged, and the Cardinal of *Lorain* got the Odes of *Horace*, and the filthy and obscene Poems of *Tibullus* and *Catullus* to be turned into French, and sung at Court as a Means to banish the singing of the above-mentioned Psalms. The Bible was translated into *French* by *Olivetan*, a Minister in *Piedmont*, *Calvin's* Uncle; and *Calvin* was about this Time an eminent Instrument in advancing the blessed Work (*k*). In the Year 1532, being about twenty-three Years of Age, he studied Law at the City of *Orleans*, and greatly increased the Reformation, as afterward at *Bourges*, next at *Paris*, and being obliged to retire from thence, he spread the Gospel in *Saintonge*, and in *Poitou*, but was forced by Persecution to leave the Kingdom. Vid. *Laval's Hist. Reform. Fr. Vol. I. p. 24. et seq.*

1549.

The French King, *Henry II.* published an Edict, by which he declared

(i) Vid. *Sleidan's Hist. of the Reformation. Brandt's Hist. of the Reformation in*

declared his Will and Pleasure that his Subjects should persevere in the Doctrine of the Church of *Rome*, and that Heretics should be banished out of his Dominions. He caused many *Lutherans* to be burnt to Death at *Paris*, and was a Spectator of the horrid Scene (*l*). Before Execution the King had a mind to see some of them, and the Cardinal knowing there were some very learned in the Scriptures, lest the King should be moved by their Reasons, caused a poor Taylor to be brought before his Majesty, thinking he would be so daunted by the royal Presence as not to be able to speak a Word; but he was deceived, for the poor Man strengthened from above, gave such an Account of his Religion, answering the Questions of a Bishop that every one wondered at him (*m*). They were put to Death with great Inhumanity, being tied to a Pully, and let down little by little into the Fire, and when they began to feel it, were drawn up again, and thus till they were roasted by Degrees, and expired amidst the most exquisite Pains. *Laval*, Vol. I. p. 75.

About this Time all *Spain* was disposed to receive the Reformation, but the Truth was overborne by the merciless *Inquisition*. Vid. *Spanish Protestant Martyrology* in *Geddes Tracts*, and Table of Martyrs, *Fox's Acts and Monuments*, Vol. II. p. 133. et seq.

1557.

The Persecution proceeded very sharp; about 200 Persons being assembled in the Night-Time in a House at *Paris* to receive the Lord's Supper, the House was assaulted; of those that did not escape by Flight, seven were burnt, and the greater Part of the rest reserved for the same Punishment. But Divine Providence opened a Way for their Deliverance (*n*).

1558.

Notwithstanding all the bloody Means to hinder the Spread of the Reformation, it increased wonderfully. At this Time the Popish Churches were drained, and the Protestant Societies were filled, and multitudes converted, and edified. The reformed entered into regular Church-Assemblies, restored primitive Church-Discipline, set up catechizing of Youth and grown Persons, so preparing them for the Lord's Table; and the Churches walked in the Comforts of the Holy Ghost, and were multiplied thro' the whole Kingdom, tho' Floods of Wrath were thrown forth, and Satan stormed that his Kingdom was thus assaulted. The Servants of Christ were imprisoned, and condemned to the Flames, or murdered in cold Blood, without any legal Forms of Justice (*o*).

B 2

This

(*l*) Ecclesiastical Hist. of France, p. 207. (*m*) Vid. *Fox's Acts and Monuments*, Ecclesiastical Hist. of France, p. 210.

This Year the Protestants in *Scotland* delivered their first Petition to the Queen Regent for Reformation of Religion, and their Protestation in Parliament on the same Head; and the next Year *John Knox* arrived from *France*. Vid. *History of the Reformation in Scotland*, p. 127, & seq.

1559.

In Sight of the most barbarous Executions, God inspired the Pastors of the Churches with Zeal and Courage, to meet in the City of *Paris*, and form the first National Synod: Here they composed their Confession of Faith, and presented it to the Hands of King *Francis II.* in Behalf of all the Professors of the reformed Religion in that Kingdom, afterwards to *Charles IX.*, at the Conference of *Poissy*. After their Confession they formed a Draught of their Church Discipline.—“If the Generation which succeeded these first Reformers had not laxed the Reins, how happy might it have been? In the Morning of the Reformation they were fair as the Moon, clear as the Sun, and terrible as an Army with Banners. A national Synod was formidable to the most daring Sinner. Their Discipline duly and prudently managed, preserved the Purity of Doctrine, Worship, and Morals amongst them. As to Ministers in the worst Times, it was strictly exercised upon them. If any proved scandalous in Doctrine or Conversation, they were not spared: the Church and House of God was soon rid of them. Their Colloquies and Synods threw away the unfavorable Salt unto the Dunghill, and it was very rare if the deposed and ejected Ministers did not take up in the Dunghill of the Romish Synagogue.”—This Year *Anne du Bourgh*, Counsellor in the Parliament of *Paris*, (who disputed in the King's Presence in Parliament, *June* the 15th of the Year preceeding, for Reformation, and was then imprisoned) was, on the 20th of *December*, hanged at the *Grove*, and his Body then burnt to Ashes (p).

1561.

About this Year the Reformation was so increased, that at the City of *Orleans* (one of the most noble and ancient Cities of the Kingdom of *France*, and a Bishop's See) the Church of the Protestants consisted of 7000 Communicants, and had five Ministers to officiate (q).

1568.

This flourishing Church of *Orleans* after five Months daily Expectation of being swallowed up, the Enemies having got Possession of the City, was on the 15th of *September* broke in upon during Divine Service, and many of them were murdered, and the Church

(p) *De Serres Hist. of France*, p. 724. *Quick's Syn.* Vol. I. p. 15, 16, 18.

(q) *Daniel Tassin's Preface to his Exposition on the Creed*, who was one of the five

Quick's Syn. Vol. I. p. 22.

Church burnt to the Ground by the furious blood-thirsty Citizens of the Popish Religion. — During the five Months the five Ministers desisted not from their Duty, God granted holy Resolution, and they saw his Wonders on their Behalf (as one of the five has left on Record, *Daniel Toussain*) amidst a thousand Dangers——“ Many a Time, says he, have they sung, and sung again in a goodly Assembly, whereof I cannot think without Tears, the cxxivth Psalm, *If the Lord had not been on our Side,* &c. which Psalm the Church of *Orleans* esteemed as her particular Psalm, for the foresaid Deliverances.” These faithful Ministers were preserved wonderfully at last, so that they fell not a Sacrifice to the Rage of the Enemy (r).

1569.

The bloody Popish Spirit proceeded at *Orleans*, and in the Month of *July*, at Noon-Day, the Papists set Fire to two Houses where they had imprisoned above 140 of the Reformed, of all Qualities and Ages, and burned them all quick. Some Months after this 80 more, the most Part Citizens, were stabbed to Death one after another, on the Morning when it was pretended they should be brought out of Prison to take their Trials (s). *

1571.

In the National Synod of the Reformed, held this Year at *Rochelle*, *Theodore Beza* presiding, they could count up above two thousand one hundred and fifty Churches of Protestants in *France*, and in many of these above ten thousand Members, in most of the Churches two Ministers, and in some five (t).

1572.

In this Year was the most execrable Massacre at *Paris*, in which (according to some) one hundred thousand Protestants were destroyed; and according to *Thuanus*, a Popish Historian, above 30,000; he calls it a most detestable Villany, but observes, it was wonderful to see how they exulted for Joy at receiving the News at *Rome*. “ Many of the principal Protestants were invited to *Paris*, under a solemn Oath of Safety, to solemnize the Marriage of the King of *Navarre* with the *French King's* Sister, “ and suddenly on *August 24.* about Day-break, upon the Toll “ of

(r) *Daniel Toussain's* Preface, ut sup. (s) *Daniel Toussain*, ut sup. (t) *Quick's* Syn. Vol. I. p. 59.

* See a parallel Instance of this Popish Cruelty executed in *Italy*, under the Influence of *Pope Pius IV.* when eighty-eight blessed Martyrs in one Day were brought out of Confinement in one House, one by one, and with the same Knife were all butchered, Vid. *Fox's Acts and Monuments*, Vol. II. p. 146. in his Table of Italian Martyrs.—[It is said Popery spreads in some Parts of *Great Britain*; but should not this Evil, though it lies chiefly among the most ignorant and mercenary of the People, yet be carefully guarded against, and would not taking care, that the Book of Martyrs be kept up in all Churches, and read more in Families, be one proper Antidote?]

of the Bell of the Church of St. Germain, the bloody Butchery began, and from the City of Paris, it spread almost thro' the whole Kingdom (u)."

It was next to a Miracle, that in this general Destruction the Ministers were very generally preserved (by the Care of the glorious Head of the Church) from Slaughter; it was above twenty Years however before the Protestants recovered this dreadful Blow, but God raised them Deliverers in the Persons of Henry IV. King of Navarre, and his Cousin the Prince of Conde, first Princes of the Blood (w).

1581.

There was a Book printed this Year, and dedicated to Henry III. intituled, *Le Cabinet du Roy de France*, in which the Writer undertakes to shew, that within a few Years there had been at least above two hundred thousand Protestants martyred for the Sake of the Gospel. He makes his Account thus, "Allow but an hundred Martyrs to every Church (their Churches were above two thousand one hundred and fifty, ten Years before the printing this Piece, *Le Cabinet*, &c.) and you have the Sum; and yet it is clear as the Sun at Noon-day, that the Sum is vastly more. For it is a Truth incontestable, that there have been cut off by the Sword and Massacres for Religion from the Church of Caen above fifteen Thousand, or sixteen Thousand; from the Church of Alencon five Thousand; from the Church of Paris thirteen Thousand; from the Church of Rheims twelve Thousand; from the Church of Troye twelve Thousand; from the Church of Sens nine Thousand; from the Church of Orleans eight Thousand; from the Church of Angiers seven Thousand five Hundred; from the Church of Poitiers twelve Thousand Persons, &c." See *Le Cabinet du Roy, Livre premier*, pag. 274, 275, 276, 277. (x).

1598.

This Year, in April, the famous Edict of Nantz was made, and declared to be perpetual, and irrevocable by Henry IV. and was published in Parliament February 15. 1599. He was inclined to reward the Fidelity of his Protestant Subjects, who had powerfully supported his Claim, when the Papists in France formed a League, supported by the Pope and the King of Spain, to exclude him from the Crown; and he found it necessary also for restoring Tranquillity to the Kingdom. By this Edict the Protestants enjoyed free Liberty of Conscience, and public Churches, free Access to all Places of Honour and Dignity, great Sums of Money to pay off their Troops, and an hundred strong Places, as Pledges of their future

(u) *Treas. Hist. Lib.* 53. 5 2, & 4. Great Britain's Memorial against the Pretence and Popery. (w) *Syn. Vol. I. p. 60.* Historical Register of the Reformation.
(x) *The Surprising Comp.* is specified in *S. Syn. Vol. I. p. 19.*

future Security, and certain Funds were settled to maintain both their Preachers and Garrisons. This Edict was re-enacted, and confirmed by *Lewis XIII.* tho' many were the Violations of it in his Reign, and *Lewis XIV.* (who at last revoked it) as perpetual, on their respective Accessions to the Throne (y).

1655.

In a Letter wrote by *Lewis XIV.* to *Oliver Cromwel*, when Protector, he expresses in the strongest Terms the Fidelity of his Protestant Subjects, as follows,—“*Having also Cause to applaud their Fidelity, and Zeal for my Service: They, on their Parts, omit no Occasion to give me Proof thereof, even beyond all that can be imagined, and contribute in all Things to the Welfare, and Advantage of my Armies (z).*”

1659.

This Year the Protestant Clergy held their twenty-ninth *National Synod* within the Space of one hundred Years, in the Town of *Loudun*, by *Lewis XIVth's* Permission, and this proved their last. (The Number of Protestants in this Reign in *France*, were computed at two Millions.) See the Acts of this National Synod at large, *Quick's Synodi*. Vol. II. p. 501, & seq.

1681.

Lewis XIV. published an Edict declaring the Children of the Reformed capable Judges in Matters relating to their Religion, at *seven Years of Age*—Upon this followed a cruel Persecution, endeavouring to force Children to turn Catholics. Vid. *Laval's Hist.* Vol. IV. p. 1143. & seq.

1683.

The holy and venerable Divine, *Monsieur Homel*, Pastor of the Church of *Vivaretz*, and for some Time at *Soyon*, aged (according to *Laval*) 71, was broken alive on the Wheel at *Tournou*. He received forty Blows of the Iron Bar, and was left a long Time under Torments before his inhuman Persecutors would give him the *Coup de grace*, as they call the last Blow on the Breast. Before Execution, he had said, “I count myself happy that I can die in my Master's Quarrel. What! would my gracious Redeemer descend from Heaven unto Earth, that I might be lifted up from Earth to Heaven? Would he undergo

(y) *Hist. of Lewis XIV.* Vol. I. p. 228, 229. (z) *Laval's History of the Reformation, &c.* Vol. IV. p. 1057, 1058. This Letter to be seen at large in *Moreland's History of the Evangelical Churches*, Book IV. chap. IV. *Oliver Cromwell* had wrote to *Lewis* in Behalf of the Protestants that inhabited *Lucerna, Angrogna, &c.* with a deep Sense of their Miseries; giving him to understand he was informed, that the Massacres, &c. in that Part of the Duke of *Savoy's* Dominions, had been partly acted by some of his Troops.—Both the Letters are at length in *Moreland*, as also the several pathetic Letters in Favour of the Persecuted in *Piedmont*, sent by *Cromwell* to Protestant Princes, and Account of the Encouragement he gave to Collections made through *England* and *Wales* for those poor Protestants, which amounted to £. 38037 7s. 3d. of which Sum himself gave 2000£. *Moreland*, B. IV. chap. V.

"derto an ignominious Death, that I might be possessed of a
 "most blessed Life? Verily, if after all this to prolong a frail
 "and miserable Life, I should lose that which is everlasting, should
 "I not be a most ungrateful Wretch unto my God, and a most
 "cruel Enemy to my own Happiness? No! no! the Dye is cast;
 "I am immoveable in my Resolution; [his Life was offered him
 "if he would turn Papist] I breathe after that Hour. O! when
 "will that good Hour come!" Just before his Martyrdom, he
 "discoursed largely, and said, "*Jesus Christ* hath rendered plenary
 "Satisfaction to his Father's Justice for my Sins, and not only
 "for mine, but for all theirs also who shall have recourse to him
 "by Faith, as I now do. He upholds and supports me by his
 "Holy Spirit, and assureth my Soul of Pardon of all her Sins.
 "This *divine Spirit* doth fortify me, and will give me Strength
 "to endure my Torments constantly."—"I cast myself upon
 "the *Merits of the Death and Passion of Jesus Christ*, I cling
 "fast unto him my only Saviour and Redeemer."—These *glor-*
 "*ious Doctrines* are recommended to us by the Experience of many
 "blessed Martyrs—God indeed filled him with the Consolations of
 "his Spirit, insomuch that when the Bones of his Arms and Legs
 "were broken on the Wheel (on the first Blow he cryed out, but
 "not for any after Blow) being asked whether he would die a *Roman*
 "*Catholic*, he addressed himself to his Judges, and said,
 "How my Lords! &c.—Courage! Courage! O my Soul! thou
 "shalt presently enjoy the Delights of Heaven; and as for Thee
 "O my poor Body, thou shalt be reduced to Dust, but it is
 "that thou mayest be raised again a Spiritual Body. Thou shalt
 "see Things that never entered into the Heart of Man, and
 "which are in this Life impossible to be conceived (a)." *

1685.

After many fair Declarations of *Lewis XIV.* that the Edicts in
 "favour of the Reformed should be enjoyed by them *in their full*
 "*Extent*, and a Letter to this Purpose, wrote by him to the Prince
 "Electo Duke of *Brandenburgh*; this Year he revoked the Edict
 "of *Nantes* and *Nismes*, "which was followed with such horrible
 "Cruelties, and new invented Methods of Conversion, *Dra-*
 "*goning*, &c. that the execrable Violences are not to be men-
 "tioned amongst mere Men, without the greatest Horror ima-
 "ginable." [Hist. of France, Vol. II. p. 1058.] The Protestant Mi-
 nisters

(a) *Quick's Icones sacre Gallicane*, Vol. II. MSS. Life of Mr. *Hemel*, and Synodicon, Vol. I. p. 134. & seq. Vol. II. p. 596.

* This single Instance of holy Fortitude under the severest Treatment from Men for faithful Adherence to the Blessed Redeemer, it is hoped will excite to a Desire to be acquainted more with the History of such Saints: The French Book of Martyrs, wrote by *Monsieur Benoit*, will afford a large Catalogue. These ANNALS only present the Reader with a small Sample out of larger Repositories.

nisters were all banished the Kingdom, and their Churches huddled to the Ground; above five hundred thousand Families were plundered, (says the great and excellent Monsieur *Claude*, Minister at *Paris*, in his Book, intituled *Complaints of the Protestants in France*, p. 189. a Book that deserves a Place in every Family in *England*) and one hundred and fifty thousand Protestants were forced out of their native Land, and made Refugees (b). The Protestants were so reduced, that their Popish Enemies boasted, that the Name of *Protestant* should be never more heard in *France*. Seven Kinds of violent Persecutions were on foot at once against them (c).

1686.

A Declaration of the 1st of *July* this year forbad all religious Assemblies, besides the Roman Catholics, on Pain of Death, and this was followed with many private Massacres (*Lewis XIV.* had consented to a general Massacre to have been executed on a certain Day in the Year 1684. if we credit the Writer of the Life of Father *La Chaize*, and this profligate Jesuit *La Chaize* was the Person that gained his Consent) the Troops fired upon the Assemblies, and had Orders to hang five or six of the most Guilty upon the Spot, and to bring the rest Prisoners. *Laval*, Vol. IV. Append. p. 86, 87.

1689.

A new Declaration was issued out, ordering not only the Troops, but the Peasants, and every one to fire upon those who should assemble for religious Worship. *Laval* asserts, that by these means they have massacred, at several Times and Places, from the Year 1685 to the Year 1715, when *Lewis XIV.* died, above 8000 People; and adds, a great Number of all Ranks, Sex and Age, suffered Death by the Hands of the common Executioner, and this to the Amount of Thousands, who might have redeemed their Lives, every one of them, if they would have lost their Consciences, and renounced their Religion. Vid. *Laval*, Vol. IV. Append. p. 89.

1696.

King *William* having recommended to his Parliament the distressed Protestants driven from their Country by *Lewis XIV.* 15000 *£. Sterling per ann.* was voted for their Subsistence, 3000 of which was allotted for the exiled Ministers, and 12000 for the rest of the Refugees. Many of these had their Wants greatly increased by the Loss of Husbands, Fathers, Brothers, and other Relations, who to the Number of upwards of 7000 were slain, or died of Sickness, in the Wars for the Reduction of *Ireland* in King *William's* Reign. Vid. *Oldmixon Hist.* Vol. II. p. 140. and Preface to the Complaints of the Protestants of *France*.

1698.

From among the many Thousands that were executed for Religion's Sake after the Revocation of the Edict of *Nantes*, to the Death of *Lewis XIV.* we shall only single out the Martyrdom of that thrice eminent Minister of the Lord Jesus, Mr. *Claudius Brousson*, born at *Nismes*, who was brought up to the Law, and took his Degree of Advocate (or Counsellor) but wholly devoted himself to the Ministry, after all the Pastors were banished from *France*; he laboured more abundantly, preaching in Deserts, &c. than perhaps can be equalled: when he could not preach he wrote and dispersed Pieces for the Instruction and Consolation of the Saints; several of his Works are in Print. He was long diligently sought for by Popish Persecutors, but the Lord secured him from their Attempts till this Year, when he was taken, condemned to the Rack to suffer both Tortures ordinary and extraordinary, and afterward to be broken on the Wheel. He finished his Warfare in a most illustrious Manner through Grace. Vid. *Turner's* compleat Hist. of most remarkable Providences, Ch. cl. and *Quick's* Icones, &c.

1715.

Before the Death of this great Persecutor, *Lewis XIV.* the Protestants appeared near as numerous as ever, but were constrained to hold their religious Assemblies in Caves and Woods, where they were farthest removed from Observation.

1724.

During the Minority of *Lewis XV.* the Duke of *Orleans* being Regent, the Government was more favourable to them; but the Administration falling into the Hands of a Cardinal devoted to the *Jesuits*, by their Influence a new Declaration was issued, which, under a Shew of Mitigation, contains in it whatever was most severe in *Lewis XIVth's* Edicts (d). This Year the Protestants of *Thorn* in the Kingdom of *Poland*, felt the dreadful Effects of Popish Injustice and Cruelty. Vid. *Oldmixon*, Hist Vol. II. p. 756.

1743.

A considerable Number of Protestants assembled for Divine Worship in *Languedoc*, thinking themselves bound in Conscience to profess openly their heavenly Religion. They were followed in the other Provinces, and for some time tolerated (e).

1744.

Those of *Dauphins* followed their Example, pursuant to a Decree of their Synod held the 7th of *May*. In *August* they went oftener, and in much greater Numbers, the *French* Court condescended

(d) See this Edict at large, with Observations thereon, in *Leval's* Hist. Vol. IV. Appendix, who adds, "Not one Year passes, without some Instances either of some that have been hanged, or sent to the Gallies, &c. for their Religion; and last Year

And so but little God: Salvation is by the Blood of Jesus
 should have been saved
 for truth & spirit
 Gain
 1698.
 1715.
 1724.
 1743.
 1744.
 The favour of God follows sincerity yet no man is right

descended to flatter the Protestants with Hopes of Indulgence; being engaged in War, it feared the Protestants should side with the Enemy; in these Meetings they solemnized a great Number of Marriages and Christenings. A National Synod was held from *August 11.* to the 21st of this Year in the Desert in the *Lower Languedoc*, and another in the Desert in *Cevennes*, *September 11.* to the 18th of the same Month. These Things provoked the Popish Priests and a hot Persecution was begun (f).

1745.

On the 1st of *February* *Lewis XV.* published his Ordonnance against the Protestants, enforcing the former Edicts, and making it immediate Death to the Minister that officiates, and perpetual Imprisonment for the Women, and Gallies for the Men, who have been present at the Meetings. The Reverend Mr. *Rolland* narrowly escaped the Persecutors Hands, being advised of his Danger by one *Paul Achard*, who for his Friendship was condemned to have his Shoulder branded (G. A. L. stamped with a hot Iron on the right Shoulder) and to be Galley-slave for Life. On *Feb. 17.* *Stephen Armand* having taught some young People to sing in Tune *David's* Psalms, was condemned to be branded with a hot Iron on the Shoulder, and to be set in the Pillory: having found upon him a New Testament and Book of Psalms, they hung these about his Neck while in the Pillory. See *Poperly always the same*, p. 26, 30, 76, 77.

This Year the Reverend Mr. *James Rogers*, aged 80 Years, after serving the Churches of our Lord Jesus with indefatigable Zeal for thirty Years, died a glorious Martyr for the Cause, and said, in the Hearing of some Protestants confined in Prison with him, *The happy Day was come, wherein he was to seal with his own Blood the grand Truths which he had preached to them; and exhorted them to be steadfast and immoveable in the Religion which, by the Grace of God, they had hitherto professed.* As he was carried to the Place of Execution he repeated with a loud Voice the *Lift. Psalm.* So much Mildness and Serenity appeared in his Countenance, that the Papists themselves of the better Sort, could not help crying; and even two Jesuits, appointed to attend him, passed great Encomiums upon him. He was hanged on the Piazza of *Dubruel* in *Grenoble*, and after his Body had hung twenty-four Hours, it was taken down, and thrown into the River *Isere*, which runs through the Town. [Vid. *ut supra.*] At the Beginning of this Year *Lewis Ranc*, a Protestant Minister in *Dauphine*, died a Martyr also, being first hanged, and then beheaded; his Head was stuck on a Post in the Highway, and the Corpse was dragged thro' the Street, and they forced a young Protestant to help the Hangman in this Work, till they left it in a common Shore. *Poperly, &c.* p. 29. and *Histor. Mem.* p. 62.

C 2

(f) *Poperly always the same*, p. 19. and *Historical Memorial*, p.

taught- & Scriptures they left behind them all Christ

Scriptures are true: Salvation so & last

March the 17th, two Troops of Dragoons came suddenly upon a religious Assembly near *Maxamet*, and fired upon the People and wounded several: After the same manner another Assembly was treated, *Nov.* 21. in the same Year.

1746.

The reverend Mr. *Desubas* died a glorious Martyr in the same blessed Cause, aged 26, on the 1st of *February* this Year: He shewed to the last Moment, as his two Brethren above had also done, so much Fortitude and Piety, that all the Spectators, Protestants and Papists, shed Tears: But his Discourse was prevented, by Drums beating aloud, a usual Custom when any Protestant, and chiefly a Minister, is martyred in *France* (g). Mr. *Rochelle*, the Master of the House in which Mr. *Desubas* was taken, was condemned to the Gallies for Life, and had all his Goods and Effects confiscated.

1747.

On the 25th of *April* in the Night, divers Disorders and Murders were committed at *La Javeliere*, &c. by the Horsemen of the Marshalseas of, &c. The poor People were so terrified that they forsook their Houses, left their Fabricks of Stuffs, &c. and lay in the Fields without Shelter. Hist. Mem. p. 68, 69.

1748.

On the 8th of *September* a Detachment of Soldiers beset and broke up a religious Assembly in the Neighbourhood of *St. Ambroise*, and wounded several Persons.

1749.

June 9th, A Detachment of Dragoons rushed upon another Assembly, dispersed the Congregation, fired many Vollies after them, and took several of them Prisoners; and in *November* 1750, another Meeting was assembled in like Manner, and 300 made Prisoners, of whom many were afterwards condemned to the Gallies, and the rest to Imprisonment, and other Penalties (h).

1750.

The *French* King published an Ordonnance at *Versailles*, *January* 17, willing that former Edicts against the Protestants, and particularly that of 1724, should be executed, and enjoining Officers and Judges to attend diligently to their Execution.

1751.

The 28th of *March*, being Lord's Day, a Detachment of Soldiers fell upon a religious Assembly of Protestants, who fled, but fifteen were taken: The Parents and Friends of the Prisoners came in the most submissive Manner to beg the Officer to let them go, but they were fired on, three killed on the Spot, and a great

(g) *Vid. Historical Memorial*, p. 63, 64. Popery always the same, p. 48. & seq. Several other Ministers have been executed in Effigy. *Vid. ut supra.* (h) *Historical Memorial of the most remarkable Proceedings against the Protestants*, &c. p. 57, 58.

Reading of Scriptures is Observed the Command of Christ John 5:239 for not knowing year 1751

Them as to give understand to simple People

a great Number were wounded, who died some Days after. *Hist. Mem. p. 69.*

Letter from Rotterdam, June 29, 1751. says, some affirm that one third Part, others one half of the Inhabitants in the South of France are Protestants.—The Power of Religion is pretty vigorous among them, and especially in those Places that are most barrastd with the Persecution. In a Letter from the same Hand, dated October 26, 1751. The Persecution is now very hot against them in the Upper and Lower Languedoc, where are supposed to be near 300,000 Protestants. A considerable Number about four Months since met in a Wood for Divine Worship, and were surrounded by Dragoons, who fired on them, whereby several were killed on the Spot, and those who were taken were sent to Prison, or the Gallies.

1752.

By a Letter from a Protestant Gentleman in Languedoc, dated April 17, it appears the Persecution is very violent. He writes, "The Persecution is so industriously kindled against us thro' the Kingdom, that we are in continual Dread of the Misery that the next Moment may bring upon us." He relates the Martyrdom of Mr. Francis Benezet, who was desirous to be admitted a Minister in the Lower Cevennes, but was arrested by a Party of Dragoons, and hanged the 27th of March: "He died with the most resign'd, pious and edifying Dispositions; so that the Executioner himself could not help saying, *That he did not hang a Man, but an Angel.*" In another Letter of May 10th, 1752, we are informed, that Mr. Flechier, Minister in the Lower Languedoc, was arrested by Dragoons on the 17th of March, and Mr. Benezet being led to Execution by his Prison Window, he cried out to him, "*Be stout, my Brother, you have but one Step to Heaven; fight to the End the good Fight, keep your Faith, and you shall receive the Crown of Righteousness which is prepared for you—Sing a Psalm.*"—Which the Martyr hearing, he began to sing the 51st Psalm, and being reproved by the Major of the Citadel, he told him with Resolution, *Do your Duty, I do mine.* By a third Letter from Languedoc, dated June 24th, 1752, it is said. "Our Affairs become more serious, and the Persecution is fiercer than ever. The Papists demand Abjuration from all those who have been married, or have had their Children baptized in our religious Assemblies, upon Refusal, the Mothers are proclaimed Whores, and the Children Bastards. These Barbarians seize on Fathers, Mothers and Children, and force them into Romish Churches, violently beating them, &c." This Writer observes, "Those who have fled to avoid this barbarous Treatment, are now wandering from Place to Place, till the Charity of Mankind shall make a Collection in their Fa-

Mat 22nd 29 Jesus says yea or no knowing of Scrip-
ture. Power of God. Oct. 17th 11 the Need We had with
us.

Principles of 9th and 4th Search Scrip-
tures Daily. God's
Word is the whole Church with
us.

“*you*, and enable them to retire into some foreign Country, where they may procure Peace for their Souls (i).”

A great Number of these have met with kind Reception in several Protestant States, and many of them have settled in *Ireland*, within six or eight Months past.

About the Month of *October*, thirty-five *French* Protestants endeavouring to fly their Country for Religion's Sake, fell into the Hands of the Soldiers, employed to prevent their Escape, before they could reach *Geneva*, and were carried Prisoners to *Nismes*.

About the End of *November*, several, that by a kind Providence had escaped, arrived in *England*, among whom was a woman that had been sentenced to Confinement for Life, for being present at some of the religious Assemblies, and with her came over the Person that assisted her and others, in getting out of Prison.

By Letter from abroad, dated *Nov. 30.* it appears that a religious Assembly was on the 9th of the said Month fired on by some *French* Troops, and dispersed by them, five of the Protestants were taken Prisoners, but (blessed be God, who has the Hearts of all Men in his Hand!) were afterwards released.

By Letter dated *Dec. 5.* there is information that the Governor of *Languedoc* had told a Popish Gentleman, that the Court was disposed to favour the Protestants, but the private opposition of the Bishops prevented it. This Gentleman was commissioned by the Governor to speak to the Heads of the Protestants, in order to know what they desired. Whereupon the chief of them met at *Nismes* and drew up a Memorial; the chief of the articles of which were,

1. That the Gally-slaves and Prisoners should be released.
2. That the young People confined in Seminaries or Convents should be released.
3. That their Marriages and Baptisms be valid, and registered in the civil courts.
4. That the same should be observed in time to come.
5. That the Clause inserted by Notaries in Marriage Contracts; viz. *That the Marriage shall be solemnised in a Roman Catholic Church*, be suppressed.
6. To celebrate Divine Service, if not in Temples, at least in private Houses at some Distance from Towns and Burroughs.
7. To have a sufficient Number of Clergymen who dare to shew themselves, and perform their Functions openly.
8. That they may have the Liberty to sell their Estates, without an express Order or Leave.

9. That

(i) See three Letters at large in Appendix to Historical Memorial of the most remarkable Proceedings against the Protestants in France, from the Year 1744, to 1751.

9. That those who are gone out of the Kingdom may have Liberty to return.

This Memorial was given to the Duke—— that he might present it to court. But they have no Account of its Success.

To conclude the sad DETAIL.

Lifts may be seen in *Historical Memorial* of twenty-nine Gentlemen degraded from their nobility the 6th of November, 1745. by the Parliament of *Grenoble*: fourteen sentenced to Banishment by the same Parliament in 1745, 46: four to be whipt by the common Hangman: six Women sentenced to be shaved by the Hangman, and to be confined, some for a Term of Years, and some for Life in the year 1746. Also Lifts of 144 Persons condemned to the Gallies, of which Number 105 are for Life, and of these forty-six are Gentlemen, and two Knights of the Order of St. Lewis; five Persons received Sentence of Death and were executed in Effigy; four Ministers have been hanged, and nine in Effigy. *Hist. Mem.* p. 50. & seq.

The Brethren are yet filled with holy Zeal for the publick Worship of God according to their Consciences, directed by his Word, and keep up their religious Assemblies to this Day, tho' all the Edicts stand in Force against them: They are not deterred from their Duty, though the above Author says, "The Instances of punishing Protestants on Account of their attending on divine Worship, are so numerous, that he does not well know where to begin the Account."—"I could, adds he, set out a List of above 600 Prisoners all taken up since 1744. in the Upper and Lower Languedoc, Cevennes, &c. among whom there are many Gentlemen, Barristers, Physicians, &c. I might produce another List of upwards of 800 Persons, sentenced to divers Penalties, among whom there are more than eighty Gentlemen, p. 41, 42."—Thus, because Protestants will obey GOD rather than Men, because they are zealous for the Honour of the Lord Jesus Christ, Papists treat them as Sheep for the Slaughter.

Are these Things so?

I. Must not every *British* Protestant be absolutely inexcusable who does not most heartily sympathize with these Brethren in Bonds? Should we not most fervently pray for them (and for the Conversion of their Enemies) every Person and Family apart, and unitedly in our Christian Societies? Shall we chant to the Sound of the Viol, drink Wine in Bowls, and anoint ourselves with the chief Ointments, but not be grieved for the Affliction of JOSEPH? GOD FORBID! Thus shall we be likely to fill up the Measure of our Iniquities, which shall draw down temporal and eternal

not 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

not on 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

fear is filling apace. Does not a solemn Day of Fasting and Humiliation become us?— Shall none be found among us weeping, and praying, *Spare thy People, O Lord, and give not thine Heritage to Reproach!*

“ ’Tis thy own Son——

“ O for his Sake attend our Cry,

“ Shine on thy Churches lest they die.

“ Thy Church is in the *Desert* now, &c.” Dr. W. Ps. 80.

2. Must we not be inexcusable, if we aid not our *Charity* and *liberal Contributions* to our most *fervent Prayers*?—Let their Miseries, and our Mercies (so long enjoyed, and forfeited) be weighed, and Gratitude to God, and Compassion to them, will make us seize this fair Opportunity of refreshing the Bowels of the Saints. We know who has said, *Verily, I say unto you, in as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my Brethren, you have done it unto me.*——Divine Providence has invited us to this great and good Work, by inclining the Hearts of several Persons of Rank and Credit to form themselves into a Society for procuring Relief to these our suffering Brethren (k).

3. Shall we not be inexcusable if we are not awakened by all this to the *deepest Repentance* for our Sins, and the most *exalted Thankfulness*. Thankfulness for the Grace granted our Brethren in the Lord, that their Faith and Patience is so abundant, and for our continued Privileges as Protestants, and brought more to prize and improve the Gospel of the precious Redeemer?—If we remain stupidly insensible of our dreadful Departures from the Lord, and our base Ingratitude for Gospel-Light and Liberty, when he sends us Messengers to remind us what he has done to *SHILOH*, [*Jer. vii. 12, 13, 14, 15.*] will he not say—*I will cast you out of my Sight, and I will send a Famine in your Land, not a Famine of Bread, nor a Thirst for Water, but of hearing the Words of the Lord. And they shall wander from Sea to Sea, and from the North even to the East; they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord, and shall not find it.* [*Amos viii. 11, 12.*] Thus our Brethren are dealt with, and have been for near *seventy Years*. Most worthy our Regard it is, that they *sunk*, when we *sinking* were *raised up*: When *Lewis XIV.* demolished all their Churches, *James II.* (as much under the Influence of *Jesuits* as the former) drove like *Jehu*, to accomplish the same here, and said he would do it, or perish in the Attempt; but how narrowly and gloriously were we saved? *But were we delivered to do all these Abominations which are done in the Midst of us?*—

Alas!

(k) Those who are thus charitably disposed, are, by publick Advertisement, desired

Alas ! Does not this appear the short, and true Character of our Nation! LOVERS OF PLEASURE MORE THAN LOVERS OF GOD: And this the most necessary Charge, especially to our Youth, Hold Faith and a good Conscience, which (i. e. a good Conscience) some having put away, concerning Faith have made Shipwreck. Do we thus requite the Lord, O foolish People, and unwise? Is he not thy Father that hath bought thee?—Has he not kept us as the Apple of his Eye?—How often, nay how lately, has he saved us from our Popish and most implacable Enemies, and our Churches in external Advantages yet flourish, while the Gallican is only to be found in the Deserts? But were the French Protestants in Lewis's Days, Sinners above all other Protestants? True it is, their Ministers reminded them plainly in those Days of the procuring Causes of God's Judgments,—“All Kind of WORLDLINESS, Plays, Pastimes, Cloth of Silk and Gold, &c. INDEVOTION, they despised GOD's holy Word, Family-Duties, and Family-Prayer were neglected, or negligently performed.” The Lord's-Day was greatly profaned by common Employments, visiting, &c. so that in a Synod held at Vivaretz about the Year 1682, or 83. they drew up, at the Motion of the blessed Martyr Homel, Articles of Reformation, of which this was one; “That they should most religiously observe and sanctify the Lord's Day, because they were fully convinced that this [the Violation of it] was one of the most daring Provocations, which had drawn down the fiery Indignation of GOD on the Churches.” (1). But have we not in all these Things abounded? and may we not fear the Sentence is gone forth—*Except ye repent, (speedily) ye shall all likewise perish?* O think not it will be Time enough when we are in visible Danger! They found it otherways: when their Ruin was hastening they kept many Days of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer, from early in the Morning till Night, vast Crowds attending, and Ministers and People under very uncommon Impressions of godly Sorrow and Fear. But it was too late. O guilty Britons, presume not! Enquire into yourselves, before the Decree bring forth, before the fierce Anger of the Lord come upon you!—Commiserate, and pray for your Brethren, charitably relieve them, be thankful for Privileges, but consider and repent for yourselves also, or expect the Day of the Lord's Anger will come upon you.—Does not the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who walketh in the Midst of the Golden Candlesticks, call upon us by his dealing with our Brethren?—Does he not say? Remember therefore from whence Thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first

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(1) Vid. Pastoral Letter from a Number of banished Ministers; after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, to their Flocks, intituled, “To our Brethren groaning in the Captivity of Babylon.” Quick's Syn. Vol. I. p. 177. and Quick's Lectures, Gall, Vol. II. Life of Mr. Homel.

voice concern! John Lewis
 with all Churches in the World at first extreme
 made Shipwreck by the Anger of Christ

first Works; or else I will come unto Thee quickly, and will remove Thy Candlestick out of his Place, except Thou repent.

EXTRACTS from the Memoirs of the Life and Death of
the Reverend Mr. SHOWER, p. 45—49.

MR. Shower was travelling in France, in the Year 1685, when the French King began in a more open Manner to break thro' the Edict of Nantes, and others his most solemn Engagements to his Protestant Subjects: "Those flourishing Churches were then declining apace; most unjust Incroachments were gradually made upon them, and it was manifest to them a violent Storm was coming. The Ministers of the famous Church of Charenton* thought it their Duty to stir up themselves, and their People, to meet God, and in the Way of his Judgments to wait on him: They kept many Days of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer, and those Days were spent in a very extraordinary Manner: They began early in the Morning, and continued till Night; the Numbers that attended were vastly great, and both Ministers and People were under a very uncommon Impression of godly Sorrow and Fear. On one of these Occasions when Mr. Shower was present, towards the Close of the Day, an eminent Minister came up into the Pulpit, and in an affectionate Discourse set before them the Danger the Ark of God was in among them, and in a very lively Manner described the Excellency of that pure and undefiled Religion which they professed, and had so long enjoyed, and the dreadful Loss they should sustain, if their Church should be left desolate, and the daily Oblation cease. The Minister's Heart was so full, that he could proceed no further; there were Floods of Tears shed throughout the great Assembly, and an universal Outcry. After a considerable Pause the Minister reassumed the awful Subject, but was again interrupted by Excess of Sorrow; upon which he turned his Discourse into earnest Prayer, and with wonderful Enlargement and Fervour wrestled with God for a lengthning out of their Tranquillity, and then humbly confessing the Sins of their Churches, acknowledged the Justice of God in whatsoever he should bring upon them, and by a very solemn Resignation laid them and all their Privileges at the Foot of God; "and

* Charenton is a Village near the Abbey of St. Maur, within two short Leagues of Paris. Henry IV. granted the Protestants Letters Patents in the Year 1606, putting them in Possession of it, for the free Exercise of their Religion, the Parisians having complained to him of the Distance they were obliged to go to Worship: By treaty they were not to exercise their Religion publicly within five Leagues of Paris. The King's Grant met with Opposition, but notwithstanding the Church continued there till 1685. Vid Edict of Nantes, Vol. I. p. 419. G. J. q.

"and proceeded most earnestly to beg, that if God saw it meet, for his own Honour, to suffer the Carcasses of that Generation to fall in the Wilderness, that yet he would revive his Work in the next, that it might gloriously appear to their Children; to which the whole Congregation gave their Assent by a loud Amen."

The reverend Mr. Tong, Author of the Memoirs, adds, "This Account I had from Mr. Shower himself; and, if I mistake not, he told me, this was one of the last of their public Solemnities at Charenton. *——The Thing they feared soon came upon them, and those famous Churches still lie in their Ruins: That Generation on whom this great Calamity first came is almost worn out, and another is risen up, waiting for the Return of those earnest Prayers that were so many Years ago made for them: And as we hope God will appoint them a set Time, and remember them, and that the Number of Years is drawing towards its Accomplishment, it becomes all that love the Lord Jesus Christ in Sincerity, to join in Prayer with them, that God would turn away his Anger from his holy Mountain, and would cause his Face to shine upon his Sanctuary, which is desolate for the Lord's Sake."

Thus all who read this are most fervently besought to do, and to intreat that the Exiles, in the mean Time, may be made Blessings wherever they come, *walking worthy of the Lord*: That we may religiously improve our Privileges, the Jews may be converted, Antichrist overthrown, and the Lord appear in his Glory, building up Zion.

The following QUOTATIONS will discover the religious Temper of Protestants in France at this Day.

"Nothing can be more affecting than the Complaints on their being deprived of the free Exercise of their Religion; nothing more fervent than their Wishes for having that precious Liberty restored unto them; nothing more heroic, than the Courage of their Ministers in these sad Circumstances, as appears by several of their Letters: In a Word, there can be no severer Censure of the Lukewarmness of many amongst us in point of Devotion, than the unshaken Zeal

D 2

* "I thought when I was at Paris, nothing in the World more delightful, than to hear the Protestants that went by Water every Sunday Morning to Charenton, singing Psalms as they passed along in numerous Companies." Vid. Universal Dictionary on the Place.

Pray heartily if want advice Apply 130 or 131 St. Pauls Church

of these persecuted Protestants. Would to GOD it could shame our People into a serious and constant Practice of their Duties towards their Maker."

We shall close with two Examples of their holy Ardour, which ought to make us blush for ourselves.

"Two young Ladies, the Daughters of Mr. Combes an Attorney, being forced from their Father's House, and carried away to Confinement guarded by Soldiers, they addressed themselves from their Coach to all the Protestants they met.—*We are going into Exile, and we go with Pleasure. Do not despond; let your Zeal continue the same for resorting to our holy Assemblies; God Almighty will shew himself our Guardian and our Deliverer.*"

"A Gentleman named Rey, a Lawyer of Nismes, having been confined about a Year, was released out of the Citadel of Montpellier, and urged by the Magistrates to promise he would no more resort to the Assemblies of the Protestants; but he told them, he could be content to remain in Jail, upon Condition that he should have leave to join every Sunday with his Brethren, in the Publick Worship of God, and be bound to surrender himself Prisoner the Day following; adding, that if they scrupled taking his Word, he would give them a legal Security *."—*Blessed be God for the Faith and Patience of the Saints in all their Tribulations!*

EXTRACTS from a LETTER of a French Clergyman in the City of London, dated February last, to one in the Country, designed for the Information of the Compiler of these Annals.—

"I Suppose your Friend (whom I will call ours, if he'll give me leave) has read the historical memorial, published last September, of which I furnished the Appendix. Another might now be added, and it would be worth while. With regard to the Galley-slaves. There have been some of them so roughly treated, that not having been used to it, they have sunk under, and died. Others have been put in their Place. I have by me a printed Account at length, of a Sentence given the 15th of April last, by Monsieur L'Escalopier, Intendant of Montauban, condemning Peter Galan, Book-keeper, and six other Men, to serve as Slaves upon the King's Gallies during Life, for having been present at an Assembly held in the
"Night,

* Vid. Popery always the same, p. 33, 36, 37, 45, 46.—It is to be wished that this valuable Piece, and Historical Memorial, &c. were digested into one Volume; lest they being but Pamphlets should be lost.

New wide Call 1/2
Exo 208 4.5
Not leaving to Images 44

“ Night, betwixt the 2d and 3d of last *March*, in a very retired
“ Place, at some Miles Distance from *Montauban*; and some
“ Women (*nine in Number*) upon the same Account, have been
“ condemned to be shut up for ever in the House of Correction
“ at *Cahors*, and all their Goods and Chattels confiscated to the
“ King's Use. The Protestants within the Circle or Liberties
“ of *Montauban*, have been condemned to pay a Fine of 3000
“ *French Livres* (about 150 *l. Sterling*) which afterwards was in-
“ creased, as I have been assured, to 60,000 ditto, or about
“ 3000 *l. English*, on Account of that Assembly. The said As-
“ sembly having been discovered, they sent thither three Bri-
“ gades of Horse, who falling upon these poor People, soon put
“ them to the Rout. Some were killed upon the Spot, amongst
“ others, *Martha Arbus*, who was killed with a Musket-ball.
“ The above sixteen, who were taken, have all received their
“ Sentence.—In *Guienne*, two Daughters of Monsieur the Ba-
“ ron of *Viscoufes* have been seized and put into a Nunnery. Se-
“ veral Persons have likewise been imprisoned in *Poitou*. All
“ the Vexations exercised in *Languedoc* this last Year, the Flight
“ of a very great Number, which are said to amount to upwards
“ of 10,000, the Interruption of Commerce, and other Incon-
“ veniencies, were perhaps the Occasion of a Visitation made in
“ this Province about the Months of *October* or *November* last,
“ by Monsieur *de Paulmy d'Argenson*, accompanied by two other
“ Persons of Distinction. They went into *Languedoc*, took In-
“ formations of all these Facts, visited some of the Prisons, a-
“ mongst others the Tower of *Constance*, situated in a marshy
“ Place near the Sea, where there was a Number of Pro-
“ testant Women shut up, whose dismal Fate particularly af-
“ fected the Heart of Monsieur *de Paulmy*, who promised them
“ that he would interest himself for their Deliverance, which
“ nevertheless has not yet happened. Nevertheless these Gentle-
“ men thought proper to cause the Persecutions against the Pro-
“ testants to cease; and even gave them Leave to set down their
“ Grievances in Writing, containing only Facts, and in few
“ Words. We have seen by way of Specimen, that which the
“ Town of *Ganges* drew up; and when they went away, they
“ promised to inform the Court of it. It looks as if this had
“ been done; for the Duke of ****, when he held the States
“ of *Languedoc*, gave the Protestants Leave to draw up their
“ Demands, provided they were not too considerable. They
“ were drawn up at *Nismes*, as it is thought, and accompanied
“ with an accurate Memorial which Mr. *****, *****
“ ***** composed himself. The Demands,
“ consisting of nine Articles, have been, it is said, communi-

"eated to the Court: * But what will be their Success Nobody
 "can perfectly tell. In the mean time they enjoy some Respite
 "in *Languedoc*, because, that as the last Expedition of the Per-
 "secutors, was to cause to be baptized and married over again,
 "those who had already been so, by the Ministers of the De-
 "sert, the greatest Part of the Protestants have yielded. The
 "Rigor used against them having been terrible; they have had
 "in some Families 10, 14, and even 18 Dragoons at a time,
 "quartered at Discretion upon them, who were guilty of inex-
 "pressible Irregularities, and who at length caused their Bap-
 "tisms and Marriages to be celebrated over again. Those that
 "have yielded are left a little at quiet. But this observe, they
 "are reckoned to be Papists, and if hereafter they perform the
 "least Act of Protestantism, or if their Children do not go to
 "the Popish Schools, or into the Convents, they will be pursued
 "as Relapses, or Apostates, the Penalty of which is perpetual
 "Imprisonment or the Gallies, and Confiscation of Goods.
 "However, the Assemblies which are held in different Places,
 "are not peaceable. The Minister of *Ganges* writes, that the
 "Protestants are siezed and put into Prison, from whence they
 "cannot be got out without Difficulty. With respect to those
 "who, in order to extricate themselves from so many Persecu-
 "tions, have endeavoured to escape out of the Kingdom; sever-
 "al have succeeded, but others, and that by Hundreds at a
 "time, have been taken, plundered of every thing, and sent
 "back again into their Country, without being able to recover
 "their Estates, and by these means reduced to the most terrible
 "Extremities. The Passages on the Side of *Switzerland*, of *Ge-
 "nesia*, of *Franche Compté*, &c. are so well guarded, that it is
 "impossible any longer to get out that Way. They must, a-
 "gainst their Wills, stay in a Country where they cannot work
 "out their own Salvation, according to the Light of their Con-
 "sciences, but with astonishing Difficulties and perpetual A-
 "larms. The Number of those that are in Prison cannot be
 "reckoned; as to those that are upon the Gallies †, there must
 "be above 60; and the Hardships which they go through, are
 "enough

* See the Articles referred to, p. 22, 23. above.

† "A *Galley* is a low decked Vessel, generally from 120 to 132 Feet long, 18
 "Feet broad, and 6 Feet deep. They are navigated by Oars, &c. and chiefly used
 "in the *Mediterranean* Sea. There were 40 French Gallies in that Sea in the
 "Year 1712, kept up in the Port of *Marseilles*, and 11000 Slaves to row them;
 "the Slaves are chained to the Oars, their Shirts stripped down to the Waste, ex-
 "posed to all Weathers: They must strike the Oars all together, or are severely
 "huddled. The Chains sometimes gnaw them to the bone, and occasion Gangrenes.
 "There are six Gallies in the western Ocean, in the French Port of *Rebfort*. The
 "ives (excepting Protestants for their Religion) are notorious Malefactors, that have
 "escaped the Sentence of Death, are condemned to this Punishment for a Time,
 "for Life.

enough to make even such as only hear the Recital of them
 shudder. With regard to such as get into these Kingdoms,
 generally speaking, they come destitute of every thing, and,
 having saved nothing but Body and Soul, they are in want
 of Cloaths, Linen, a few Goods and Utensils, and must
 submit to serve Apprenticeships, or work at hard Labour;
 the greatest Part not being able to go on, as being Strangers
 here, with the Trades that they followed in their own Coun-
 try: And as to the old People, they must be provided for by
 Charity. Those that are gone for Ireland, and their Num-
 ber already exceeds 300, will find, it is hoped, some Em-
 ployment there. As I have been employed to receive the
 greatest Part of the Exiles as they came to London, I know
 better than others their Condition and their Wants. Thank
 God, the Contributions which we have received from diffe-
 rent Parts, have hitherto supplied them; and if any more
 Emigrants come, we flatter ourselves, that the good People of
 this Kingdom will not shut up their Bowels of Compassion to
 them."

A considerable Number have since arrived in England and
 Ireland, and are expected to be dropping in continually. We
 have received later Intelligence, by which it appears, the Pro-
 testants in *Languedoc* have more Freedom, and enjoy more Op-
 portunities for the Worship of God: But the Persecution falls
 hard on the Reformed in *Santoign* and *Poitou* at this Time.—
 It is moreover said, that a Computation has been made of the
 Number of Protestants in *France*, to the Amount of 2,500,000,
 and that the lowest Computation is 1,800,000.

May the Wrath of Man praise thee, O Lord, and the Remain-
 der thereof do thou restrain.

Wm. under the
 Star Pray to God
 Protestant Rev
 vinit. Pray
 The coming of
 mal day of
 Dgment
 W. John 9 V. 31
 Protestant the the
 of Worth in
 of to ask of
 of the for his
 W. take John 14 V. 13
 W. 14 V. 13
 W. 14 V. 13

1682 23rd Nov. 1700
 to 14th V. 13
 1700 23rd Nov. 1700
 to 14th V. 13

Protestants know as Christ
and he is most able & as man
most willing to help Heb 2V11
Able to save to the uttermost all
that come unto God by him
John 5V14 if we ask according
to his will & thro his Merits
Praying to Dead who can see
Nothing 2 Th 2V20 : Tiving
know thy shall die but dead
know nothing Isa Eccles 9V5
Isai 63V16 Thou art our father
Virgin Mary never said all
Generations should Pray to her
she to be honoured but not Wors
hiped Luke 1V48 : Jesus all Power
In heaven & on Earth : Mat 4V10
Popelooks for help from Saints
more then from God who should
Have All Glory Acts 3V12-13
Miracles wrought by Moses Rod
& by Christ but not by Relicks
Pray to God by Spirit of God & H

...ing to Prayers with one ...
... 18020 Where 2 or 3 together
SPECIMEN ...

... my name in an own tongue^{hea}
... that People ^{OF THE} may understand to
UNRELENTING CRUELTY know
What thy say to God : Scriptures for
Our Learn? ^{OF} 1 Cor 10 v 11 : the same

PAPISTS in **FRANCE**, as in

the apostle time : Luke 22 v 20
1 Cor 11 v 25 to say it body & blood
The unshaken FAITH and PATIENCE

Real is deny? new Testament
Rock is said ^{OF THE} to be Christ 1 Cor 10 v 4
PROTESTANTS of that Kingdom ; Christ
Is said to be ^{Now entering upon the} the bread John 6 v 48

Seventieth Year of their PERSECUTIONS.

Church is call'd body of Christ ye
it is not is ^{Extracted from} flesh Col 1 v 24

Authentick Accounts received at the beginning of the
Year 1755. serving as an APPENDIX to Annals,
&c. published in 1753.

We are members of his Body flesh
Beloved, think it not strange concerning the Fiery Trial which is to
try you ; as tho' some strange thing happened unto you : But re-
joice in as much as ye are Partakers of Christ's Sufferings, &c. ^{Bon}

I PET. IV. 12, 13. ^{Chp 3}

2 v 30 : so Christ is a vine a Door a
way a branch : Christ's body was

L O N D O N :

Whole seting at Table so now in

Printed for J. WAUGH and W. FENNER, at the Turk's-
Head, Lombard-Street. MDCCLV.

Heaven : (Cor 10 v 16 signifies
... 2d of ...

Stop Progress of Popery: it is the
Duty of all that love Christ & in
Anation Where Gospel is free to all
to teach Childⁿ Errors of Popery &
to be cautious of it Return
2 Thessa 2 Chap^r: Pope Pretends to
Be Successor of St Peter to rule
Christian World as Christ Vicar
On Earth Prince of the Apostles
Infallible Guide to Salvation he
Exalts himself above all Call^d
God by Presuming to alter the
Institution of Christ: he says
He sits in the temple of God
Claiming Universal Worship
Grasping at unbounded Dom^{nion}
Over Minds, Bodies & Estates of
Men: Power in heaven Earth
Over Dead & living: Yet Would
fain make us believe their
Religion is mild: But it
Cruel & Bloodthirsty Rwy

mitted Fornication with her
A P P E N D I X

To ANNALS of the Rise, Progress, and
 Persecutions of the reformed Churches
 in *France*.

Dear SIR,

July 9, 1755.

BEING favoured by a Friend with Extracts
 from several *French* Letters, (received from
France, within some Months past) wrote by Pro-
 testants that are in the Furnace of Persecution, I
 have endeavoured to draw up a succinct Account
 of their heightened Sorrows in the Months under-
 mentioned. The Perusal, Sir, will, I am persuaded,
 greatly move your generous Christian Breast, and
 lead to endeavour a Spread of *Sympathy* for the
dear Sufferers, wide as your Influence, and to draw
 from others what so naturally flows from yourself,
Liberality towards them who flying hither to main-
 tain a good Conscience, come naked of all worldly
 Substance (a). What a Contrast is *French* Popery
 in Power, supported by Grenadiers and Dragoons
 to the Sentiments and Resolution of the Empress
 Queen of *Hungary*, though herself a zealous Ro-
 man Catholic? Does she not in her favourable Re-
 script, concerning Protestants in her hereditary Do-
 minions,

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(a) By publick Advertisement, such as are disposed to relieve
 their Necessities have been desired to send their Contributions to
 Sir Richard Hoare and Company, in Fleet-street, or Sir Joseph
 and Sir Thomas Hankey, in Fenchurch-street. At this Time Be-
 nefactions are greatly wanted; Emigrants coming daily, and se-
 venty-three of the Persecuted for Righteousness Sake, have been
 relieved in about the Space of two Months, since last Decem-
 ber. Happy are they who are blessed with a sanctifying Heart.

the Inhabitants of Earth have been down to
 to receive the Blessing
 will give her hand a Golden

the Church her Doctrines full of Mystery. But
To Death heretics Millions

minions, avow Sentiments and Resolutions diametrically opposite to *French Popery* *? "She declares it is with *Sincerity* acknowledged by her, that Violence in Matters belonging to Faith cannot be a Means to convince Men: Convictions must be the Work of Divine Grace, joined to Instructions dictated by Meekness and Patience, and strengthened by the Example of good Works, which ought to be christianly extended to all that stand in need of them without Distinction of Religion. This is the Sense in which, *adds she*, we have used and shall use the Text, *Compel them to come in*; and to that End we shall occasionally employ our Finances in Favour of such of our Subjects as are not of our Religion; yet behave peaceably and dutifully. All Zeal that deviates from these Principles shall ever be disapproved by us, &c. None of our Subjects, not even the most obstinate in refusing to hear good Instruction shall be molested in their Persons, or Estates, while they behave as dutiful Subjects, and pay "due Obedience to lawful Authority." Is not all this well spoken?—I detain you no longer, but remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.

July. - 1744.

ON the 5th instant, the Garrisons in *Lower Languedoc*, of several Villages being gone to *Nismes* to be reviewed, the Protestants embraced this favourable Opportunity, and the Lord's Supper was administered without any Molestation. The same

the Imperial City signed Over things of the

Earth: Angel says the Word how sawest were the

same Happiness did not attend the Brethren of St. *Hypolite* of *Catton*, on returning from their religious Assembly, the Garrison of St. *Jean*, &c. fell upon them, fired, and put them to Flight, seized three Men, and five Women, with their little Children. The Children were soon after baptized in the Church of St. *Maurice* by the Prior, the Soldiers waiting till the Ceremony was performed.

The Protestants near St. *Foi* on breaking up their Assembly, were attacked by a Party of Dragoons (about sixty) who fired among them, wounded one Man, and ended his Life with their Bayonets. Forty were taken Prisoners, among whom was a young Man, a Student for the Ministry, who by some Means was happily delivered, or he would have fallen a Prey into the Hands of the Jesuits. N. B. Other Accounts of this Assembly inform, that five or six were killed on the Spot, fourteen or fifteen wounded, and forty-five taken Prisoners. [The Churches of *Saintonge* have been plundered and miserably used, rebaptizing all their Children which had been baptized by Protestant Ministers.]

At the latter End of this Month, an Assembly near St. *Ambrose* in the *Cevennes* was surprized by a Party of Dragoons; who fired upon them, and seized several of both Sexes, who yet remain in Prison: As on the 17th instant, an Officer and five Gentlemen of *Albigois* were arrested; but whether for holding Assemblies, or performing Baptisms is not known. The Storm fell also upon *Upper Languedoc* in this Month. On the 10th instant, Information being made that an Assembly had been held near *Revel*, the Archers accompanied by some Horsemen, arrested the Messieurs *la Serre*, and

the multitude of People of Nations: Rome must be the

Woe shall hate the Whore to Match her Devil
Washed & burn her: When the Lord by his Holy Spirit

the two Misses *Sarrat Ferrieres*, who were carried to the Castle of *Ferrieres*. *Mr. Faure*, a young Gentleman of Family, and Lieutenant in the Army, escaped under Favour of the Night, but has since been taken and carried to the Prisons of *Montpellier*. On the 19th of this Month the Archers of *Albi*, supported by a Detachment of Dragoons, came to the Houses of several, whose Names may be produced, and arrested several Persons. These Searches spread such Terror, and so great Consternation in the City of *Castres*, that neighbouring Towns were filled with those who fled for Fear. A heavy Tax is laid on the Inhabitants of *Cournonsec*, near *Montpellier*, for refusing to adorn the Fronts of their Houses on the Festival of the Sacrament, and *Mr. Andre* is imprisoned, where he is to remain till the Tax is paid.

August.

On the 4th of this Month, *St. Dominick's Day*, (a worthy President for such an Exploit) a general Search for Ministers was made by the Troops in *Lower Languedoc*. A great Number of Houses were narrowly searched, both in the Cities and Country Villages. Several of our Brethren, [*Protestant Ministers*,] were in the most imminent Danger; some escaped almost miraculously (a). At this

(a) The special Care of Divine Providence in protecting the Ministers when so narrowly sought for, by Thousands of powerful Enemies, demands the most religious Attention. That after all the sudden Search, but one should be found, and he so qualified for, and carried so gloriously through Martyrdom, to the Establishment of the Faithful, and the Confusion of their Persecutors, what less is it than a miraculous Attestation in Favour of the Persecuted?

shall Enlighten Peoples eyes and blinders taking

this Time, *the Reverend Mr. la Fage*, who had been in the Office of the Ministry about two Years, was arrested; the Soldiers entered the House where he was, and he could not be concealed; on endeavouring to Escape, he was shot at, and the Balls lodged in his Shoulder, and he and all the Family where he lodged were made Prisoners. Being condemned to be hanged, he finished his Course gloriously at *Montpellier* on the 17th instant, after having gained the Esteem of those who saw him in Prison, by his Discourses and Firmness: greatly affecting by his Death all those without Distinction that were Spectators of it. Every Body was extremely edified by his Piety, his Meekness, his Resignation to the Divine Will, and by his Resolution and Firmness. The greatest Part of his Judges could not condemn him without blushing. Immediately after the Sentence, two of them fell dangerously ill: One of whom declared, that he would choose rather a hundred Times to lay down his Office than to give his Consent any more to such a Sentence (a). Those that were taken with *Mr. la Fage* were not tried at that Time, but their Estates are seized, and the District of the Place where he was arrested, has been condemned to be fined a thousand Crowns, the Protestants being the Persons to pay that Sum, and it has been given among the Soldiers. About this Time near *Uzes*, the *Sieurs Richard* and *Stephen Martin* were arrested, being near a Farm where one of them was fishing, and the other a hunting. They made some Motion to withdraw when they perceived the Sol-

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diers,

(a) We are informed that one of the Judges died of the Illness which he was then seized with.

When Christ shall reign in the hearts of people &

the Gospel shall prevail & set against his Power Conscience
the Kings of Earth strive to blot an end to Idolatry, &c.
17. I saw another angel come down from

diers, which inclined the latter to believe they concealed a Minister. [They are still in Prison at Uzes. Letter of the 26th of October last.] About this Time, Endeavours were used to arrest the *Wife of a Minister*, but they missed her, and she is fled. The Writer of the above, a Protestant Minister, says, in another Letter, that himself very narrowly escaped the same End that *Mr. la Fage* met with, and relates the Providence by which he was rescued; having no sooner left his House, than it was immediately surrounded by a numerous Detachment, which made the most diligent Search for him. Since this, adds he, my Day is turned into Night: *He adds*, We have great Reason to fear our Enemies will exert all their Power to disturb and molest, since the Bishop of *Alais* has sent a Letter for that Purpose to all the Curates of his Diocese. And, speaking of the cruel Methods which are daily used to destroy the Protestant Churches, he says, never before have they been so artfully attacked, beset on every Side, and ravaged from every Quarter; and, it will be impossible to bear up under this heavy Calamity, unless sustained and upheld by God himself. Let us therefore, adds he, incessantly offer up our Prayers to him for Assistance, and perhaps sooner than we expect, a happy Providence may change the awful Scene.

September.

In the Beginning of this Month, twelve Persons in the Diocese of *Beziers* were arrested; four whereof were of *Bedarieux*, &c. They were all carried to Prison. The Names of nine of this Number are specified; among which are, the two Misses

Triol:

Her Plagues come in one day
 Babylon on her Fall
 The Christian Power

New
 82
 1
 2
 3
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 8
 9
 10
 11
 12

Triol: All for attending on worshipping Assemblies; and four Men of the twelve have been condemned to the Gallies. The Officer that commands the Detachment of *Montareng*, for a long Time past has made his Soldiers patrol every Hour of the Night, especially near those Houses where there are any *Sick to be visited, and Children to be baptized*. In one of those Rounds, a Physician named *Cabrol*, was arrested, they taking him to be the Minister of *Ufex*, who is also of *Montareng*.

In another *French* Letter, bearing Date the 18th of *September*, it is said, the County of *Bedarieux* had enjoyed great Tranquility: Our Enemies resolved to revenge themselves for the Uneasiness which this Calm had given them. Very lately Troops have been quartered in that Country, and they have employed them not only in putting a Stop to Divine Service there, but in seizing twelve Persons, who were immediately carried Prisoners to *Beziers*. Upon this Account a great Number of People have been alarmed, and abandoned their Habitations. We now and then assemble in the —, but if a greater Number of Troops are sent, as there is Room to fear, shall be obliged to suspend all publick Worship. Notwithstanding all the Danger, we find by this Letter, that a fair Opportunity offering, a Protestant Minister convoked an Assembly, a few Miles from *Nismes*, about the 10th of this Month. "It consisted of three or "four hundred Persons, and every Thing passed "quietly, Thanks be to God!" Forty five Children were baptized, and ten Couple married, a few Days before, by the Minister who preached. An-

other

Corrupted by Rome 1300 rose by Degrees to 1800 France
and Power over Imperors a right to set up Kings

1. Dis throne them right to call them to an Account
But Boniface the third 600 years after Christ

other Minister writes in a Letter of the 19th instant, A good Pilot should not abandon his Vessel, because of the Violence of the Tempest that agitates it, &c. He says, we endeavour, as much as our Duty will permit, not to put them [the Troops] into Motion, and we do this more out of Tenderness to our Flocks——than upon our own Account, who are used to Pursuits, (i. e. to be pursued) and rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer for our common Faith.

October.

From a Letter of the 2d of this Month we learn, that upon the Departure of a Regiment of Infantry that had been quartered in the Mountains, and the March of the Dragoons from the Plains towards *Carcaffone* to be reviewed, the Protestants laid hold on that Opportunity, and four Assemblies were convoked in the Plain: This being discovered, and informed against, occasioned great Persecution. Hereupon 160 Persons of the City of *Castres*, 10 of *Revel*, 30 of *Realmont*, and as many of *Roqueccurbe* were informed against, and the Enemies set all their Wits at Work in order to arrest them, and with sad Success. The Names of many sent to Prison are notified; and it is added, an infinite Number of others are wandering about in the Country: We hear of nothing else but *Detachments* and *Captures*. May it please God to pity his People!

From another of the 13th instant, a Detachment from the Town of *Anduze*, (a Town in *Languedoc* on the River *Gardon*) which was sent out on the 5th of this Month, consisting of a Company

After eight of 900 sent by Gregory 7 near 5000
from 1400 papers between the 2 none lost about 200
the sign upon the 12th
the first of these Ordained by the Apostles 1300 more

of Grenadiers, and of — surrounded the House of *Mr. Bastide*, betwixt Eight and Nine at Night; their Officer at the Head entered in order to take the *Mother*, and to carry the *Daughter to a Nunne-ry*. The House was searched with all possible Exactness, but they were spending the Evening in another Family. The Soldiers having missed their Prey, returned the next Day at Night, between Ten and Eleven, it raining so hard as to make the River *Gardon* overflow its Banks. They searched the House a second Time very strictly; but Prudence had made the Persons sought for retire to a Place of Security. They are fled, and their Estate, which consisted in Land, has been set to Sale. The Writer, who is a Minister, adds, I am still in the unalterable Resolution, not to leave the Churches, except my Infirmities should put it out of my Power to give them further Assistance. He proceeds and relates the Distress that the Church of *Sauve* (a Town in the Diocese of *Nismes*) is fallen into: On the 6th instant, the Protestant Minister had given Notice of an Assembly at *Constatas*, contrary to an Agreement of suspending public Worship, till we could have Hopes of a greater Calm, and Security for the Church. As he was just beginning his Sermon, an Express came to give Notice that a *large Detachment* was gone out of the Town. The Majority of the Votes was for leading the Assembly to the Top of the Mountain, to shelter them from all Surprise. He observes, that this Country is the most secure of any in *Europe*, and the Zeal of the Faithful very great. They by way of Precaution placed a *Centry* something forward upon a Rock, which was as inacces-

dier shot at and killed him. It is to be observed, says the Writer, that the Grenadier was under some particular Obligations to this young Man. Some Hours after, they fetched away the Body. A Man that was gathering Figs upon his own Ground was also made Prisoner; and when the Detachment were re-assembled in the Square of *Sauve*, a Soldier perceiving a young Man there, said, I saw him on the Mountain, and immediately the Officer had him seized, and caused him to be put in Prison with the other two, the living Man, and him that was shot dead.

The Letter closes with observing : The Soldiers neglect nothing in order to surprize us. For these five Months past I have been like the *Shamoy*, [the wild Goat] shifting from one Rock to another, tho' I might go into — where in many Respects I should be more at Quiet. But I must be an Example to others, to have an Eye to every Thing that passes amongst my Flock. In another Letter of the 26th of this Month—The 6th of this instant, four Companies of the Garrison of *Nismes* came at Three o'Clock in the Morning to the Wife's House of the worthy Minister of the City, and searched it for two Hours together, but to no Purpose. Searches are very frequent, and are very troublesome to Ministers, because they make Places of Retirement very scarce, and oblige them almost every Night to lie abroad in the open Field, or in some Hole of a Rock.

An Account has been drawn up, and laid before some Gentlemen in *London*, by Mr. B———P——— of his Sufferings, which took their Rise from his expressing his Resentment against the

I'd not "aspire Universal Authority for 300 years
 when spirit of Gaspar Declared "Nicholas Pleasure

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 tion a
 Nose
 so
 Came
 15
 April.
 Antichr
 ist
 Year
 600
 or
 Imper
 Phocas

" We have heard that in February last an As-
 sembly of Protestants being held for Divine Ser-
 vice towards *Bourdeaux*, the Enemy had Notice
 of it, sent Soldiers who fired upon the poor Peo-
 ple, killed some of them, and took some Pri-
 soners. The Persecutions are going on in many
 other Parts, with great Severity. The Priso-
 ners upon the Gallies earnestly desire our Prayers,
 and are sent from *Marseilles* to *Toulon*, where
 they are far from their Friends, who used to
 give them some Help now and then.

July 1.

" Some Time ago a poor Countryman of eighty
 Years old was hanged for the Sake of Re-
 ligion. By last Letters we learn, that in *Langue-
 doc* Divine Service is entirely ceased, the Troops
 being in such Manner disposed as to prevent all
 Assemblies.—In *Guyenne* some few Assem-
 blies were procured; but the Soldiers were sent
 after them, fired upon them, and made many
 Prisoners. In *Poitou* and *Saintonge* no Publick
 Worship; very rare in *Normandy*. Those in the
 Gallies are not yet set at Liberty, nor those in
 Prisons, which are in great Numbers in *Lang-
 guedoc* and *Poitou*. Since March last 50 Emi-
 grants have been relieved by the Society in *Lon-
 don*, and many are daily coming; so that the
 Society stands in great Need of charitable Be-
 nefactions."

The
 Murderer Tyrant obtained Empire by Mahomet
 Maurice the Lawful Sovereign & God his Child

The following is here inserted to shew the very Spring of the Persecutions in Languedoc since March, 1754.

God on but the Ignorance of the Policy of the Agents of the Church produce all the evil

March 3, 1754, near Nismes.

as a Pious man of 5 Centuries before

Divine right from But right from

THE Marshal Duke of R— arrived here at the End of January last, to hold the States of the Province. You know in such a Case it is customary for the Clergy to present the King with a free Gift. At this Time that cruel and powerful Body, taking Advantage of the Circumstance violently declaimed against the Protestants and their Pastors, and concluded with a Demand for the total Ruin of both. After repeated Solicitations and odious Invektive, seeing they could not obtain all what they desired, at last they forced out from the Marshal a Decree which forbids all Manner of Assemblies, orders the Troops which are in the Province, to fall, even to fire upon the Protestants, to seize every one of them who shall be seen in the Assemblies; as well as those who should convoke them, and any private Person who shall give them any Asylum or Protection. That Decree, dated February the 16th, was some few Days after made publick, and followed by an Instruction directed to all the commanding Officers of the Troops; it contained 19 Articles, whereby they are taught in what Manner to proceed, in order both to surprize the Assemblies, and to apprehend the Ministers, and surely to conduct them to Places of Safety. Moreover, the Troops are ordered to fire upon the Protestants whenever the commanding Officer shall think fit. All the Children that have not been baptized in the Romish Church, and all the People that have not been married there, are also ordered to be rebaptized and remarried. The Commissaries of the several Parishes have begun to take an exact List of them, and every Sunday Detachments are ordered to go every where in the Country in Pursuit of the Assemblies.

Yet To Image in Church of Rome

Preists forbidden Marriage at end of 5 Centuries

Claimed

Voltaire

Gaind

truth

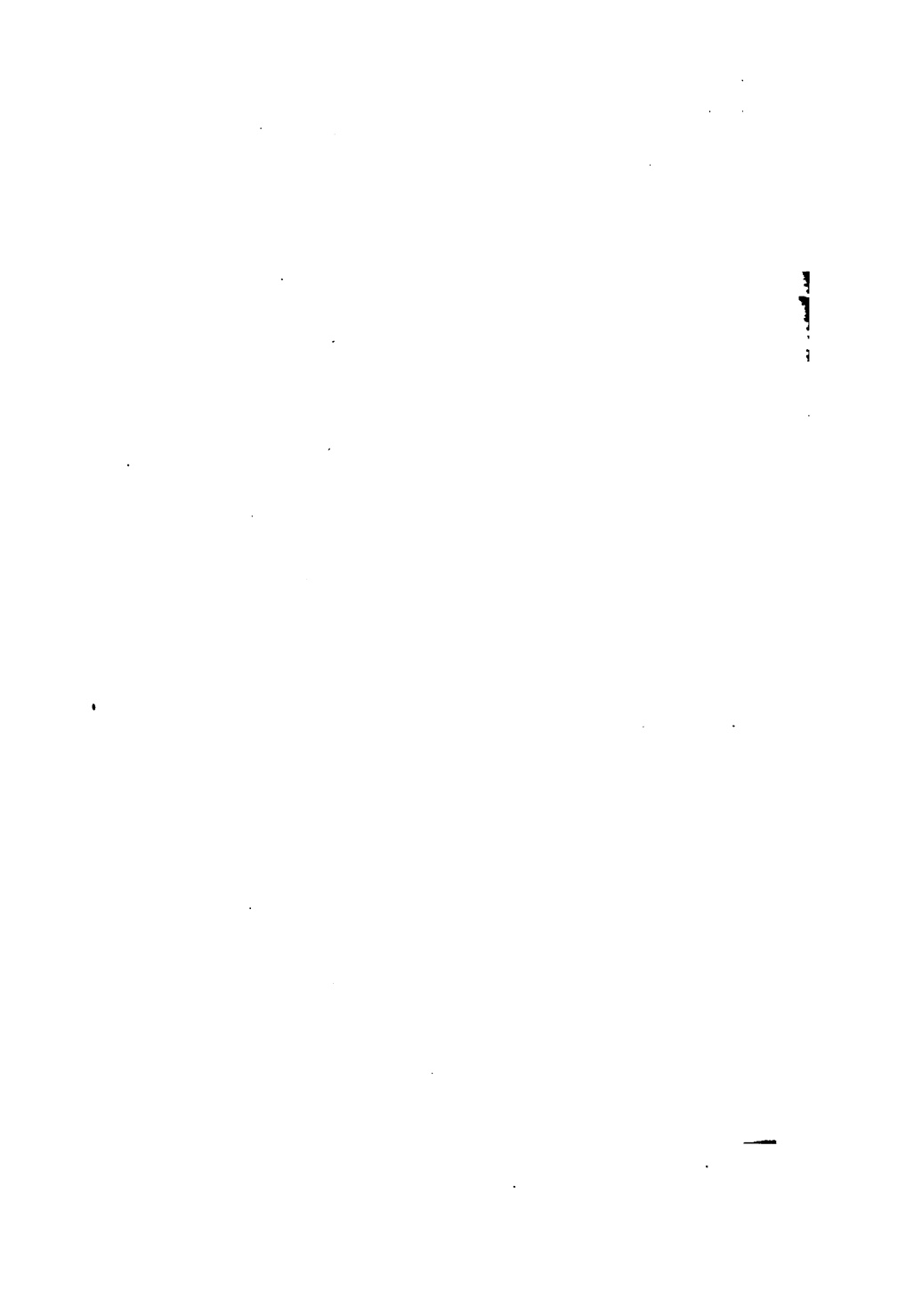
Religion

in time

of Princes

not more

The E N D.





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44 3 1/2 A ①

